

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

10

September 9, 2003

FROM: **JOHN D. GOSS**, Assistant County Administrator
Economic Development/Public Services Group

PETER HILLS, Fire Chief/Fire Warden,
San Bernardino County Consolidated Fire District

SUBJECT: **CONTINUATION OF PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
REGARDING FLASH FLOODING IN AND AROUND THE TOWN OF YUCCA
VALLEY**

RECOMMENDATION: Continue the emergency proclamation originally proclaimed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors on August 22, 2003, and ratified by the members of the Board on August 26, 2003, resulting from excessive property damage caused by a significant thunderstorm event from August 20, 2003 through August 27, 2003, in and around the Town of Yucca Valley, which still exists and continues to be a local emergency.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On August 22, 2003, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, acting as Director of Emergency Services of the County of San Bernardino, signed a Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency resulting from excessive property damage caused by a significant thunderstorm event from August 20, 2003, through August 27, 2003, in and around the Town of Yucca Valley. On August 26, 2003, the members of the Board of Supervisors ratified the proclamation by majority vote, as required pursuant to California Government Code section 54954.2(b)(2). The Board is required to review and continue the proclamation on either 14-day or 21-day intervals in accordance with California Government Code section 8630, if there is a continuance of the local emergency.

During a period when the Board meets weekly, the proclamation must be reviewed every 14 days in accordance with Government Code section 8630(c)(2). If the Board does not meet weekly (e.g. due to a holiday), the proclamation must be reviewed every 21 days in accordance with Government Code section 8630(c)(1). The Board last took action to adopt the proclamation on August 26, 2003, and approval of this recommendation would continue the emergency for an additional period in accordance with Government Code section 8630.

The thunderstorm event, which began on August 20, 2003 in the Town of Yucca Valley, resulted in the following approximate monetary losses as of August 27, 2003: damage to roads (\$75,000); damage to a flood control channel (\$50,000); damage to the local airport (\$400,000); damage to the local water district (\$20,000); damage to a local park (\$12,000); damage to local schools (\$330,000); and damage to approximately 222 residential and 27 business properties (\$780,000). An additional thunderstorm event on August 27, 2003 resulted in damage to roads (\$50,000), and damage to five residential properties (no business properties) in the nearby City of Twenty Nine Palms.

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

10

There were also three fatalities that occurred as a result of a car being swept away in swift water in the City of Twenty-Nine Palms, and one storm related fatality that occurred as a result of a two vehicle accident. Damages to residential and business properties in and around the Town of Yucca Valley include mud and flood water in homes and swimming pools, damages to landscape, and other related flood damage. The total current estimated monetary losses for the Town of Yucca Valley and the City of Twenty Nine Palms is approximately \$1,717,000.

Included in the County local Emergency Proclamation was a request for the Director of the State Office of Emergency Services to issue a Director's Concurrence, which could provide for limited reimbursement to Public Agencies for work performed to repair infrastructure or structures and related debris removal. County Fire Department/Office of Emergency Services (OES) is waiting for a determination from the State Office of Emergency Services regarding this request.

On August 26, 2003, OES staff also requested a declaration of a disaster from the Small Business Administration Program Administrator to assist homeowners with residential storm-related damage. Results from this request are also pending a determination.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Deputy Dennis Tilton) on August 27, 2003, and the County Administrative Office, (Wayne Thies, Administrative Analyst) on August 27, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no financial impact associated with the action to continue the emergency proclamation.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS: Third District

PRESENTERS: Peter R. Hills, (909) 387-5974
Denise L. Benson (909) 356-3998